

THE NEW SCRIPT

and its Relation to the

Languages of the Gold Coast

Issued by the Education Department, Gold Coast.

1930

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XIII. 1. Misc. 133



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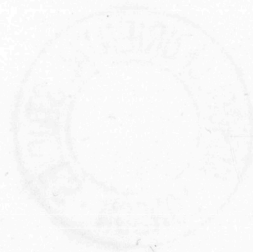
1930



THE NEW SCOTT

Language of the East

STEPHEN AUSTIN AND SONS, LTD.,
ORIENTAL AND GENERAL PRINTERS, HERTFORD.



PREFACE

IN preparing this pamphlet the compiler has had but one object in view. He has no intention of trying to force upon any sections of the community ideas which are alien to the spirit of their own languages : his sole aim has been to collate the ideas of those who speak with authority, so that the conclusions at which they have arrived after over two years of careful thought and discussion may be at the disposal of all.

At the same time he hopes that all teachers will realize that the best service they can pay to the language they are justly proud of being able to speak, read and write, is to assist to the utmost the effort that is being made to standardize its spelling. Books are needed for study and for general reading. Authors are waiting to produce them. It is hoped that the production of this pamphlet will enable writers to get on with their work, and readers to be ready to appreciate their efforts.

Grateful acknowledgement is made of the help given by both Africans and Europeans in the preparation of the pamphlet and in supplying the examples which illustrate the proposed usage.

H. A. HARMAN,
Acting Director of Education.

April, 1930.

THE NEW SCRIPT AND ITS RELATION TO THE LANGUAGES OF THE GOLD COAST

IN Sessional Paper v, 1927-8, will be found the report of Professor D. Westermann on his visit to the Gold Coast in 1927 in connection with the endeavour to find a common script for the Akan (Twi, Fante), Ga and Ewe languages.

2. There has been undue haste in some quarters to introduce the script which Professor Westermann advocated, for after his visit there still remained some important questions to be settled, particularly with regard to the reconciliation of spelling in Twi and Fante. Most of the difficulties are now cleared up.

3. Before going on to describe the new script and its effect on the spelling of words it is advisable to indicate why a new script was necessary at all. The chief reasons are :—

(1) To try and free the language from the accumulations of diacritical marks which made type very costly, caused unnecessary trouble in setting up a book in type and made a printed page difficult and even harmful to the eyes to read. Lines, dots and signs were placed under or over letters to distinguish them from others, where it would have been just as easy to have a new symbol ; marks were added to indicate a nasal sound ; other marks or methods indicated length or tone. All these marks and signs were different for different languages.

(2) To enable persons familiar with one dialect to read books written in another dialect without much difficulty.

(3) To settle the spelling of hundreds of words in common use with two or even three different spellings. This has a direct bearing also on the spelling of the new words which must from time to time be introduced into a language.

4. The script which was finally chosen was received with very general agreement, in fact almost with unanimity. It is a phonetic one. The written forms of West African languages are to a very

remarkable degree phonetic in construction, and it is obvious that if new characters need to be introduced they should be those which are already in general use in languages of this type.

The strangeness of some of the symbols may at first glance frighten some people, but experience in this and other countries shows that these fears are groundless. No one, for instance, even in past days has been afraid of the symbol *j* which occurred in Ga, but was unknown in Twi.

THE NEW SCRIPT

5. The symbols of the new script as used in Ga, Eve, Fante, and Twi will be described in this pamphlet under three heads. First, there is the type which is used in printed papers and books, and which is found also on a typewriter. This will be referred to as the *printed form*. Then there is the modification thereof which is used in ordinary cursive handwriting, where letters are joined together in a word. This will be called the *cursive form of handwriting*. Lastly, experience has shown that when young children are learning to read and write it is best for their earliest efforts to be with a form of script which bears a close relation to the printed form, though it will necessarily be a simplified form thereof. No one, for instance, writes the letter "g" with the complicated tail which its printed form shows. This form of script for young children will be referred to as the *script form of handwriting*. This pamphlet, therefore, will describe the symbols for use in four languages, will show these symbols both as capitals and small letters, and will show these capitals and small letters in printed form, in cursive handwriting form, and in script handwriting form.

6. You should refer now to Illustration A, where these are set out in columns for easy reference, though they will be mentioned again under the respective languages which will be considered in greater detail. It is sufficient here to remark:—

(1) That many of the capitals will only be needed when it is necessary to print a word in capitals as the heading to an article or for some similar purpose.

(2) That alternative forms for many letters in cursive hand-

writing are in existence and need not be changed so long as there is no risk of confusion. For instance, the letters **A, B, C, D, Y** are found written

A, B, C, D, Y or A, B, C, D, Y.

and since there is little chance of these being confused with other letters it is immaterial which form is retained so long as it conforms to the system of handwriting taught in the school.

But the capital letter **E** is often written in either of these forms

E or E

Here it is better to keep the first form for the capital **E**, and the second (or a close variant of it) for the capital **Æ**, one of the new letters.

(3) That no change in pronunciation is intended even though there be a change in spelling. For example, there is a general tendency in England to spell the word "mediæval" in the form "medieval", but no one who adopted the new spelling would alter the pronunciation of the word. Notice, too, that the endings of the names of the towns Edinburgh and Scarborough are spelt differently, but pronounced the same.

ILLUSTRATION A

Printed Form		Cursive Handwriting		Script Handwriting	
Capital	Small	Capital	Small	Capital	Small
A	a	..A..	..a..	..A..	..a..
B	b	..B..	..b..	..B..	..b..
C	c	..C..	..c..	..C..	..c..
D	d	..D..	..d..	..D..	..d..
Ð	d	..D..	..dr..	..D..	..d..
E	e	..E..	..e..	..E..	..e..
Ɛ	ε	..E..	..ε..	..E..	..ε..
F	f	..F..	..f..	..F..	..f..
F	f	...f..	..f..	..F..	..f..
G	g	..G..	..g..	..G..	..g..
Y	y	..Y..	..y..	..Y..	..y..
H	h	..H..	..h..	..H..	..h..
X	x	..X..	..x..	..X..	..x..
I	i	..I..	..i..	..I..	..i..
J	j	..J..	..j..	..J..	..j..
K	k	..K..	..k..	..K..	..k..
L	l	..L..	..l..	..L..	..l..

Printed Form		Cursive Handwriting		Script Handwriting	
Capital	Small	Capital	Small	Capital	Small
M	m	..M..	..m..	..M..	..m..
N	n	..N..	..n..	..N..	..n..
D	ŋ	..ŋ..	..ŋ..	..ŋ..	..ŋ..
O	o	..O..	..o..	..O..	..o..
ɔ	ɔ	..ɔ..	..ɔ..	..ɔ..	..ɔ..
P	p	..P..	..p..	..P..	..p..
R	r	..R..	..r..	..R..	..r..
S	s	..S..	..s..	..S..	..s..
Σ	ʃ	..Σ..	..ʃ..	..Σ..	..ʃ..
T	t	..T..	..t..	..T..	..t..
U	u	..U..	..u..	..U..	..u..
V	v	..V..	..v..	..V..	..v..
U	u	..U..	..u..	..U..	..u..
W	w	..W..	..w..	..W..	..w..
Y	y	..Y..	..y..	..Y..	..y..
Z	z	..Z..	..z..	..Z..	..z..
3	3	..3..	..3..	..3..	..3..

SECTION II : THE SCRIPT IN RELATION TO GA

7. The adoption of the new script will not be at all difficult for those who already know how to read and write Ga. The Bible as printed in Ga by the Basel Mission should be taken generally as the standard of the old spelling from which transcriptions are to be made.

Vowels

8. There were formerly a, e, ɛ, i, o, ɔ, u. The only changes are :—

- (1) ɛ is now ε, and thus neke becomes neke.
- (2) ɔ is now ɔ, and thus gbo becomes gbo.

Nasal Vowels.—The Nasal Vowels are as formerly, ā, ē, ī, ō, ū, but the nasal mark is to be omitted where it is unnecessary. It should not be used :—

(1) In words which are absolutely distinctive and which could not be mistaken for other words, e.g.

meni? meba? negbe? moni, gbomo.

(2) In words where h is followed by i or u, for in such cases the vowel is almost invariably nasal, e.g.

hia (be necessary), hie (face), hi (be good), hu (also).

The last word hu could not be confused in the context with hu (to fan) or hu' (noisily).

(3) In words which have no corresponding non-nasal form, e.g.

Fi (to bind), gbi (day).

The nasal sign will have to be used where there are two words with the same spelling, one with a nasal vowel and one without, which might easily be confused, e.g.

tʃi (push), tʃi (stop); ʃia (sand), ʃia (house); su (character), sū (clay).

The Nasal ē.—In old script the characters *e* and *ē* were used. If there had been corresponding nasal forms to each of these they would have been written *ẽ* and *ẽ̃*. The nasal *e* which did exist was not strictly either of these and was represented by *ẽ*. With the change to the new script *ẽ* will be used wherever it is advisable to retain the nasal sign to distinguish from *e*.

The Nasal ɔ.—A similar case exists with *ɔ*, but here too the old spelling should be retained, e.g.

tʃɔ (to teach), *tʃɔmɔ* (teach! imper.), *mɔ* (castle), *hɔ* (to sell).

The Length Sign

9. It was customary to put a line over a vowel to indicate greater length, e.g. *tē* (to hide), but in the new script this lengthening will be shown by a dot put after the vowel, e.g. *te·*. You should notice the position of the dot, for it is not to be confused with the full stop sign. It will not be necessary for the sign to be used where there is no risk of confusion of sense. In most cases it will be used to make a difference between two similar words, e.g.

te (went), *te·* (to hide); *nu* (water), *nu·* (man).

In cursive handwriting one does not wish to break off to insert a dot, and so the method of showing the added length is to complete the written letter with a hook. In Illustration C you will find examples of this in the words *kusu·*, *da·*, *dzogba·ŋ*, etc.

The Diaresis

10. This sign (two dots over a vowel) is no longer used. A dot after the vowel is used instead in what is called the habitual tense of verbs. Thus for a verb ending in *a*, this tense would be written with one *a* followed by a dot, e.g. *a·*, and not *aa*. Examples are :—

ela· (he sings), *miba·* (I come).

If the vowel has a tone mark or a nasal sign the dot is not to be used, but the extra *a* added as formerly. In the negative, to

distinguish it from other long sounds in verbs, the two vowels are written exactly alike as formerly, e.g.

Habitual Tense.	Negative.	Habitual Tense.	Negative.
náa	náá	feo	fee
hāa	hāā	bio	bii
māa	māā	tʃōo	tʃōō
kāa	kāā	bō·	bōo
ka·	kaa	kō·	kōo
ha·	haa		

Consonants

11. *The symbol ʃ.*—As ʃ is the universal sign for *sh* (š) it has now been adopted and will be used regularly for š; thus šia will in future be ʃia and še will be ʃe.

The symbol tʃ.—In a similar way tš becomes tʃ. Thus we shall print tʃa for tša (to dig), tʃose for tšose (to bring up).

The symbol dʒ.—The sound t is closely allied to that of d, the former being a breathed consonant while the latter is the voiced form of it. Just as t is sometimes followed by ʃ, as in the instances given above, so d is followed by the corresponding voiced sound, as in dʒei, as it was formerly written. The correct symbol to use after d in Ga is ʒ, and the word should now be written dʒei. The symbol z stands for the voiced sound corresponding to s. This does not occur in Ga and so must not be used.

The symbol ʃw.—The symbol ʃ as formerly used in Ga was for an entirely different purpose from that indicated above, and ʃw will now be used in its place. Thus we shall print tʃwa and not tʃa (to strike), and fē-tʃwem for fē-tʃem.

In the same way dʃ becomes dʒw, and we shall write dʒwei where we formerly wrote dʃei, and dʒwen for dʃen.

The symbol ŋ.—Instead of ñ the sign ŋ will be used; thus goñ becomes goŋ, and beñke becomes beŋke.

The symbol ʏ.—For names or places formerly beginning with j or i the symbol ʏ will be used; e.g. Yesu, Yerusalem, Yosef.

Joining of Words

12. The nominative pronoun will be joined to its verb ; e.g. eba, wote.

The possessive pronoun will be joined to its noun ; e.g. mideka, efai.

The objective pronoun will be kept separate ; e.g. ebahā o noko.

The Symbols Illustrated

13. You should now refer to Illustration B where you will find set out :—

(1) The printed symbols in common use in Ga. (The corresponding cursive and script handwriting symbols are to be seen in Illustration A.)

(2) A number of sentences illustrating the use of these printed symbols.

(3) The same extract as it would appear in ordinary cursive handwriting. (See Illustration C.)

(4) The same extract as it would appear in script handwriting. (See Illustration D.)

A careful examination of these in conjunction with the notes given above will enable you to see at once how the new script affects the Ga language.

ILLUSTRATION B

The New Script in Ga

Capital.	Small.	Capital.	Small.	Capital.	Small.
A	a ā a'	K	k	S	s
B	b	KP	kp	Σ	ʃ
D	d	L	l	ΣW	ʃw
DZ	dʒ	M	m	T	t
DZW	dʒw	N	n	TΣ	tʃ
E	e ē	NY	ny	TΣW	tʃw
Ɛ	ɛ	D	ɲ	U	u ũ
F	f	O	o ɔ	V	v
G	g	Ɔ	ɔ	W	w
GB	gb	P	p	Y	y
H	h	R	r	Z	z
I	i ī				

An Example of its Use

Σikpoŋ le edo. Tʃwa saŋku le ní mabo toi. Ka'tʃa bu ye kpo le nɔ. Namo dʒwa kā le? Dʒenamɔ sɛ dʒɛkɛ. Tʃo le ebu kusu. Ka'gbe onanyo le he guɔ. Wo ŋmoŋmlo ne obahā mi. Dʒomɔ mi dāni maya. Dʒwei le fē eŋāla. Gbekēbii nyesumɔsumɔa nyehe. Gbi kome hie ŋmlɛtʃwai nyonmai-enyo kɛ edʒwɛ. Dmē otʃui ʃi ohā le. Vlo kā Σwilao he. Gbekē kpakpa wiewo anokwale da. Kplamɔ koloi le owo tʃūŋ. Hā obi le adzu ehe. Nyehia ʃi ye biɛ ni nyesra. Otʃɛ ye dʒogbaŋ lo? Aʃiɛ Nyonmɔ wiemɔ ye sɔlemotʃūŋ. Dʃo kumoo ŋʃokɛi. Bi nilɛlɔ hāa etʃɛ na mi'ʃɛ, ʃi bi kwafia hāa emi' eʃɛ le. Σɛ Nyonmɔ gbeyei ni oye ekitāi le anɔ. BɔNyonmɔ dʒamɔ he mɔdɛŋ. Anumnyam ahā Nyonmɔ ye ŋwei ʃonŋ.

ILLUSTRATION C

The Same Extract in Cursive Handwriting

Jikpon le eds. Ifwa sangku le ni
 mabo toi. Katfa bu ye kpo le na.
 Namo dzwa kã le? Dzenama se
 dzeke. Ifo le ebu kusur. Hagbe
 onanyo le he guz. Uto nyommo re
 olahã mi. Dzama mu dani maya.
 Dzwei le fi enãla. Gbekẽbi nyesuma-
 sumsa nyehe. Gbi kome hie nyetfuvai
 nyommai-enya ke edzwe. Nmẽ ofui fi
 ohã le. Uto kã Juilao he. Gbekẽ
 kpakpa wies anskwale da. Hplama koloi
 le owo tfũg. Hã obi le adzu ehe.
 Nyehia fi ye bie ni nyesra. Ofi
 ye dzogban lo? Afes Nyomma
 wiema ye szlemstfũg. Nfz kumoz
 nfskei. Bi nilels hãa etfe na
 mife. fi bi kwafia hãa emi efe
 le. Je Nyomma gleyei ni oye
 ekitã le ana. Bz Nyomma
 dzama he msdey. Anumnyam ahã
 Nyomma ye zwei fongy.

ILLUSTRATION D

The Same Extract in Script Handwriting

Σικπον λε eda. Tjwa sangku λε ní mabo toi.
 Katja bu ye kpo λε na. Namo dzwa ka λε?
 Dzenama se dzeke. Tjo λε ebu kusu.
 Kagbe onanyo λε he gua. Wo ηmogmlo ne
 obaha mi. Dzama mi dani maya. Dzwei
 λε fe enala. Gbekēbii nyesumasuma
 nyehe. Gbi kome hie ηmletjwai nyonmai
 enya ke edzwe. Nmē ofui ji oha λε. Vlo
 ka Σwilao he. Gbekē kpakpa wiea
 anakwale da. Kplama koloi λε owo tññ.
 Ha obi λε adzu ehe. Nyehia ji ye bie ni
 nyesra. Ofje ye dzogban lo? Afiea
 Nyonma wiema ye salematññ. Nja kuma
 ηsakei. Bi nilela ha etje na mi se, ji bi
 kwafia ha emi efje λε. Se Nyonma gbeyei
 ni oye ekitai λε ana. Ba Nyonma dzama
 he maden. Anumnyam aha Nyonma ye
 ηwei song.

SECTION III : THE SCRIPT IN RELATION TO EVE

14. The adoption of the new script involves no essential changes in writing the Eve language, though the abolition of diacritical marks affects eight letters. These are shown in the table below, and the corresponding forms for script and cursive handwriting will be found in Illustration A.

Old form.		New form.		Old form.		New form.	
D	d	Ḑ	ḑ	F	f	Ḟ	ḟ
G	g	X	ḡ	W	w	U	u
H	h	X	x	E	e	Ɔ	ε
N	n	D	ḡ	O	o	Ɔ	o

The Symbols Ɔ and ε .

15. The sound represented by the letter ε is not frequent and tends to be pronounced e. As a general rule, therefore, ε should be used only where it can clearly be shown to be a contraction of a and e; e.g., wɔnɛ from wɔnae, nɛ from nae, and in very few other words, e.g., hɛ knife, as distinguished from he to pull. In all other cases e should be written.

Accents and Signs

16. Accents and nasalization signs will remain.

Vowel Lengthening

17. Lengthening of a vowel was formerly indicated by a stroke above the letter. It will now be shown by doubling the vowel, e.g. faa, not fā (freely). But even this may be omitted where there is no danger of confusion with other words, e.g. kokoko, not kokooko, and katā, not katāa.

General

18. In some respects the grouping of words into composite words in Eve follows lines which are different from those in other languages in the Gold Coast. Fortunately, in the Dictionaries and Grammar which have been prepared by Professor D. Westermann, the Eve-speaking people have an authority to which they can always refer. It should be an accepted principle in the writing and printing of the language that that standard should be firmly adhered to.

19. You should now refer to Illustration E where you will find set out :—

(1) The printed symbols in common use in Eve. (The corresponding cursive and script symbols are to be seen in Illustration A.)

(2) A number of sentences illustrating the use of these symbols.

Then in Illustration F you will find the same extract as it would appear in ordinary cursive handwriting, and in Illustration G the same piece in script handwriting.

A careful examination of these in conjunction with the notes given above will enable you to see at once how the new script affects the Eve language.

ILLUSTRATION E

The New Script in Eve

Capital.	Small.	Capital.	Small.	Capital.	Small.
A	a ā	H	h	P	p
B	b	X	x	R	r
D	d	I	i	S	s
DZ	dz	K	k	T	t
Ḑ	ḑ	KP	kp	TS	ts
E	e ē	L	l	U	u
Ɛ	ɛ ẽ	M	m	V	v
F	f	N	n	U	u
F	f	NY	ny	W	w
G	g	D	ḡ	Y	y
GB	gb	O	o ō	Z	z
X	y	O	o ȯ		

An Example of its Use

Dkuvula! Megado vlo dewògbe o! Do ḡku nya eve siawo dzi yesiayi bena: Kokloxo mekpea ḡu na koklo o. Xegbee xe dona. Fe siwo gbona la fe nyati nanye. Gbegbagblo nye aku si me gbogbo fe yi la le, eyata mine miádze agbagba le ejuti hafi wòagblē keḡ! Xlídola fe hoowowo nye nu dzodzro, ke anukwareqila fe agbagbadzedze nye viḡenu gā. Ɛ! Ulē be. De gbo de gbo enye ato.

ILLUSTRATION F

The Same Extract in Cursive Handwriting

Nkusrula! Megado vlo
 dewògbe o! Do nku nya
 eve siawo dzi yesiayi be-
 na: Kokloxs mekpea nu
 na koklo o. Xegbee xe
 dona. Fe siwo gbana la
 fe nyati nanye. Gbegbz-
 gblz nye aku si me
 gbzgbz fe yi la le, eya-
 ta mine miadze agbagba
 le eyuti hafi wòagblē
 kenj! Ijidola fe hoowuzw
 nye nu dzodxro, ke anu-
 kwaredila fe agbagbadze-
 dze nye videnu gā. E!
 Mē be. De gbz de gbz
 enye atz.

ILLUSTRATION G

The Same Extract in Script Handwriting

Nkuvula! Megado vlo dewògbe
 o! Ðo nku nya eve siawo dzi ye-
 siayi bena: Kokloxo mekpea
 nu na koklo o. Xegbee xe dona.
 Fe siwo gbana la fe nyati na-
 nye. Gbegbagblo nye aku si
 me gbagbo fe yi la le, eyata
 mine miadze agbagba le enu-
 ti hafi wòagblē ken! Xlidola fe
 hoowawo nye nu dzodzro, ke
 anukwaredila fe agbagbadzedze
 nye videnu gā. E! Vlē be. De
 gbo de gbo enye ata.

SECTION IV : A UNIFIED SPELLING OF TWI AND FANTE

20. Before going on to speak of the effect of the new script on the Twi and Fante dialects of the Akan language a word must be said about the desirability of a unified spelling for these dialects. It is this section of the work which has been least understood, and has consequently caused something approaching consternation in the minds of certain people who feel, though they are in error in so feeling, that their native tongue is being tampered with.

21. The first thing to notice is that the differences between the Twi and Fante dialects are being magnified. In actual fact they are by no means so great as the differences which once existed in other languages, both European and African, and which have been successfully dealt with by the adoption of a common script and a unified spelling. Such a word as "great" in English was once spelt in a variety of ways and is still heard pronounced in parts of England in ways represented by those different spellings. Then "great" was agreed on as the spelling, and became generally accepted. But there is no real objection to the word being pronounced in other fashions, if a person chooses so to do and to mark himself off as belonging to a particular area ; and when a writer wishes faithfully to portray the sound of a word in a dialect he spells it in a form which he thinks will best convey the sound of the word. In the same way it may be better for the Twi and Fante words for "father" to be agreed upon as spelt "agya", but that need not prevent either of these peoples from sounding the word as they please. At the same time each will recognize the word in the other's language, but if the spelling were different it might reasonably be thought that the word was different in meaning in the two languages.

22. The next point is that it is quite unnecessary to try and retain in the general written form of the language all or even many of the dialectal peculiarities of its branches. There are excellent novels and studies of country life which are written in the dialects of, say, East Anglia and Devonshire ; but valuable and interesting though they may be, it would be waste of effort to try and retain in

the general language of the English people all the special words found in the dialects, or to teach the children of Northumberland words peculiar to Somerset. They are interesting, and in so far as they are useful will survive, but to try to force them on the bulk of the English-speaking world out of mere pride in one's district would be waste of effort.

23. In a similar way there will undoubtedly be in this country hundreds of words which will always be found in the speech of certain districts, but will not find their way into the speech of the generality of people who use the tongue of which those districts furnish special dialects limited to a small area.

24. Then again we have to remember that it is not so very long ago that these languages were first written, and that the setting of them in writing was merely the opinion of those engaged on the work. No doubt every care was taken, but there is as yet nothing final about the work, and it is foolish to object to a change of spelling merely on the ground that it was first written in a particular way. It took about a hundred and fifty years after the introduction of printing for the spelling of English to become at all standardized, though it had been written for ages before that. |||

25. As a speaker at a recent Achimota Conference said, the local languages will grow and reach to the full measure of their importance only when a native writer comes to the front and provides for the people stories that they delight in reading. One of the first things which that writer will find is that he needs a larger vocabulary than he finds at his disposal. He will certainly take hold of many of the words at present only used in obscure dialects and they will become the common property of all. Moreover, he will want to introduce new words not only to express new ideas but to make his meaning clear and to avoid the confusion which would result in the minds of his readers if he used with new signification words which had previously a different or at least a restricted meaning. It is easy to see how much his task will be simplified if he finds that the spelling of the dialects of Akan has been unified, and how valuable it will be for all dialects if the new words are the common possession of all.

26. Moreover, there is the question of cost. If dialects are

unified in spelling, a writer writes for a larger public, is thereby encouraged to publish his work, and can produce it at a cheaper rate.

27. Lastly let us give a thought to the teachers and the children they have under instruction. Often in one class a teacher has to deal with children from different areas speaking different dialects. How much easier becomes his task and the task of the children if the written and printed language is intelligible to all.

28. A unified language will grow, and a language which does not grow decays. And at the same time it achieves all this without altering the pronunciation of words. Pronunciation has changed and will change but not because of a unified spelling in our generation.

29. We can now go on to see what are the directions in which it is possible to move towards a unified spelling of the dialects of Akan. At the same time it is possible to note the instances where the languages are so far removed as to make it impossible at the moment for unification to take place, though such unification may be only a matter of time. For it must be recognized that Africans themselves by writing in any particular dialect all help to make the words they use more widely known. There are hundreds of words in English which are in general use in Britain (and in West Africa in common with all other places where English is spoken) each of which is the result of one single man's use of the word, strange though it may seem.

30. We will now indicate briefly the lines on which unification can and cannot be proceeded with.

(1) *Pronouns.*

31. The personal pronouns in Fante (as shown in Balmer and Grant: *Grammar of the Fante-Akan Language*) are :—

	Singular			Plural		
	1st Per.	2nd Per.	3rd Per.	1st Per.	2nd Per.	3rd Per.
Nom.	me	e	ɔ	yɛ	hom	wɔ
Obj.	me	wo	no	hɛn	hom	hɔn
Poss.	me	wo	ne	hɛn	hom	hɔn

The personal pronouns in Twi are :—

	Singular			Plural		
	1st Per.	2nd Per.	3rd Per.	1st Per.	2nd Per.	3rd Per.
Nom.	me	wo	ɔ	yɛ	mo	wɔ
Obj.	me	wo	no	yɛn	mo	wɔn
Poss.	me	wo	ne	yɛn	mo	wɔn

Now it is easy to see that the second persons plural differ to such an extent that it is not wise to attempt to say that one should be used for the other. But if at any time the number of Fante speakers who use the Twi form increases (or vice versa) then it may be possible for the commoner form to be regarded as standard for both dialects.

On the other hand it is quite common to hear Fante speakers use alternative forms for the first and third persons plural of the objective and possessive cases, forms which are the same as the Twi words for these pronouns. Here is a distinct instance of the two languages drawing together, and if the process continues it will soon be possible and desirable for children to be taught that the present Twi form is common to Fante also.

But for the present and until the movement has spread further it is probably best to leave the pronouns as they are, and wait for time and the influence of those who write in these languages to effect the change.

(2) *Future Tense* *

32. Though instances are found in Fante of the future tense being formed and written with one or other of the prefixes *ba*, *be*, *bɔ*, *bo*, it would help the spelling of the languages if it were agreed that the prefix should be written either *bɛ* or *bɔ*. To use the words of Mr. Grant, one of the authors of the recently issued Fante Grammar, "these prefixes when attached to verbs with narrow controlling vowels will assimilate the narrow sounds whose representation in writing is now recommended to be discontinued".

(3) *Progressive Tenses*

33. In both Fante and Twi the progressive present and progressive future tenses should be formed by prefixing the syllable *re-*.

(4) *Past Definite Tense*

34. In the formation of the past definite tense of verbs either the vowel should be doubled or *e* or *i* should be added. When the influencing vowel is open, *e* represents the added vowel sound that gives the sense of a past tense, e.g. *ɔbɛne* (it came near); but when the influencing vowel sound is narrow, *i* represents the sound, e.g. *ɔfuni* (he digged).

(5) *The Prefix kɔ*

35. This is another instance where complete unification is not possible. Just as in (2) above where two forms for the future tense are needed in Fante, so two forms, *kɔ* and *kɛ*, are required.

(6) *n Sounds*

36. It is agreed that all *n* sounds (including those formerly written *ñ* in Twi) should be written with *n*. The sign *ŋ* should be deleted from the Akan languages. No dots or other signs, such as (*˘*), need be written to show any differences between *n* and *ñ* (or *ŋ*).

(7) *The Nasal Sign*

37. The nasal sign (*˘*) should be retained as in the old script whether the preceding consonant or the one following is nasal or not.

(8) *Short Sign over Vowels*

38. The sign (*˘*) should be omitted in every case. It should be left to the discretion of the writer to insert or omit the vowel, e.g. *kurow* or *krow*.

(9) *Final w*

39. This should be retained, e.g. *ahorow*, *tew*, *siw*.

(10) *Elisions*

40. The method of elision should depend on the nature of the initial vowel of the second word. Where this vowel is fugitive, as in *onuā*, *enā*, etc., it should be dropped, and the previous word should be written in full, e.g. *me nuā*, *wo nā*. But where the vowel is stubborn, as in *ani* and in verb prefixes, it should be retained, and the pronoun or other preceding word should be elided, e.g. *w'ani*, *w'aba*, *m'ano*.

(11) *The Digraphs dz, ts, ny*

41. Many words in Fante begin with **dz**, **ts** or **ny**. The corresponding Twi words begin with **d**, **t** or **n**. It seems advisable to leave these spellings alone. Unification is not yet possible in these instances.

In the same way **kyen** and **sen** (than) and **sɛn** and **dɛn** (what) will have to remain.

(12) *Words Differing in Initial Vowel*

42. There are many words in Twi and Fante which differ only in the initial vowel, e.g. the Twi word for father is **agya** and the Fante word is **egya**. Suggestions have been made that the Fante usage should be followed, and oddly enough the Fante people who have spoken on this point think that the Twi usage should be followed. Here then is a case for unification, and such words, which in Fante have the narrow **e** for the initial sound will be written to conform with the Twi spelling. Examples are : **agya** (father), **anyi** (eye), **anum** (five), **asia** (six), etc.

(13) *Abbreviated Forms*

43. Phrases such as **fa brɛ me**, **haban mu**, etc., which in speaking are habitually slurred into **fabrɛm**, **habamm**, should be written in full. (Compare "I am" in English, which is generally spoken as "I'm", but is written in full in all cases except where an endeavour is being made to indicate the exact sound made.)

44. In the next section where the effect of the new script on the spelling of Fante is considered, and in Section VI which deals with Twi, it will be assumed that the attempts at unification indicated above will be adhered to by all engaged in teaching the languages to young children. Just as old editions of the Bible will be in use side by side with new ones and yet not give any serious trouble, so it will be quite possible for a generation to pass in which the children are learning to spell their words as shown here, even though their elders, if too conservative to change, spell in a slightly different fashion. In any case the differences will be no more pronounced than the existing ones in the old script.

SECTION V: THE SCRIPT IN RELATION TO FANTE

45. In this section will be recorded the changes necessary owing to the introduction of new letters. At the same time we shall mention the changes desirable if there is to be an attempt at unification of spelling of Akan dialects as indicated in the preceding chapter.

Reference will be frequently made to words to be found in Illustration H, where they are introduced in order to exemplify the new usage.

Vowels

46. The new vowel signs are ϵ and α . The corresponding capitals are \mathfrak{E} and \mathfrak{O} . It is not merely a question of the substitution of these signs for those already in existence; it is rather a matter of re-arranging the old and new symbols to fit as many cases as possible in a logical manner.

The symbol ϵ .—This will be used for what in the old script was *e*. Thus *ye* becomes *y ϵ* .

*The symbol *e*.*—This will be used in many words formerly written with *i*. Thus *kyinam* becomes *kyenam*.

It will also be used for words formerly spelt with a final *e*. Thus *bue* becomes *bue*.

The same applies to cases in the middle of a compound word where this vowel is the root-ending of one part of the compound, e.g. *gyedzi*.

The symbol α .—In other cases not included in the preceding paragraph the sound which was formerly written *ɛ* will be represented by α , and the assimilation rule will come into force. This has always been done in the case of such words as *banyin*, *basia*, even in the old script. It will now be extended to all other words, e.g. *akutu*, *Afua*, *akyir*, *anyim*, etc.

The symbol α .—This will be used in words formerly spelt with *o*. Thus *woma* becomes *w α ma*.

The symbol o.—This will be used in words which in the old script were spelt with u. Thus **abufra** becomes **abofra**.

It will also sometimes be equivalent to ɔ. Thus **mpuɔ** becomes **mpuo**, or **mpo**, as it is often spelt.

The symbol u.—This will be used for what was formerly written u. Thus **Efua** becomes **Afua**. (See above, the symbol a.)

Consonants

47. *The symbol l.*—The letter l will be needed for words of foreign origin, as in the Fante equivalents of Luke, Leah, etc.

It is interesting to note that little children often make the sound when trying to say d or r, as in **merɛbɔtɔ** or **dokon**.

The symbol ŋ.—This will not be required for Fante. In old script the symbol ŋ or ñ was used for the sound which sometimes occurred in certain dialects at the end of a word or followed by k, g, h, n, w and y. The symbol n, without any diacritical mark whatever, will be used in all cases for what are locally known as n sounds.

Instances given in Balmer and Grant's Grammar are :—**fann**, **hann**, **kann** (clear), **penn** (distinctly), **sənn** (safe and sound), **twann** (elastic).

Other instances in which the pronunciation varies but in which the spelling will always be -n are :—**dən**, **ban**.

Personal Pronouns

48. *The Nominative Case.*—The forms are **me**, **e**, **ɔ**, **yɛ**, **hom**, **wɔ**. In speech the value of the vowels may alter, but these are the forms which should always be written. We may say something which sounds like **otum**, but we must write **otum**. We must never write **mo**, **mu** or **mi** in words which in speech sound like **moroko**, **murutur**, **miridzi**, but stick to the form **me** for the pronoun, so that these words will be written **merəkɔ**, **meretur**, **meredzi**. The reason for using the form **re** in the progressive tenses has already been referred to and will be mentioned again later on in this section.

Although it would be better to write them in full, the nominative pronouns **me**, **e**, **yɛ**, **wɔ** may be elided ; that is an

apostrophe (') may be used to take the place of the vowel in the pronoun. This occurs when the verb following begins with a vowel, Thus *ye aboa* is written *y'aboa*.

Objective Case.—The forms are *me, wo, no, hen, hom, hon*. These forms are fixed and are never elided, even in verse. They should always be written in full even though their final vowels are scarcely sounded in speech.

Possessive Case.—The forms are *me, wo, ne, hen, hom, hon*. These forms are also fixed. Though we may say something which sounds like *mu nua, mo dōfo, mi biriw*, we should never write *mu* or *mo* or *mi*, but always *me*. Similarly *wo* and *ne* are never to be written in any other forms.

Me, wo and *ne* may be elided when the noun following begins with a vowel which is stubborn enough to insist on remaining, e.g. *w'anyi*. But where the vowel of the following word is fugitive it will disappear and the possessive pronoun will be written in full. Thus in using *onuā* and *enā* we should write *wo nuā* and *wo nā*.

Emphatic Pronouns.—The forms are *eme, owo, ono, ehēn, ehom, ehon*. These words should always be spelt in these ways, even if, for instance, you feel that *emi* more strictly represents the pronunciation which you give to the word *eme*.

Verbs

49. Verbs should have their pure form preserved even if a word following them in speech modifies their sound. For instance, *kə mu* preserves the form of the verb *kə*, even though in speech the presence of *mu* causes the verb to be sounded as *ko*.

N.B.—Nouns should be treated similarly, writing *dan mu*, for instance, even though we say *dāēm*.

Certain words so coalesce in speech that many people fail to recognize them as separate words: *nye yi* is an instance of this. In speech or ordinary reading the two words may so work in together as to be heard as *nyi*, but they should be written in full. In the same way, what is written as *ono nye no* will be read as though it were *ono nyen*.

The word *nnyi* (see Illustration H) is the negative of the word *wə*, and of course has no connection with *nye*. Never write it with one *n*.

The Progressive Tenses.—To form the progressive tenses always join the prefix **re-** to the stem of the verb, e.g. **rehwε**. Never write the forms **ri-**, **ro-**, **re-**, even though you may feel that the sound approximates more closely to one of them.

The Future Tense.—This will always be written with either the prefix **bε-** or the prefix **bɔ-** as in the words **yεbeyε** and **mebɔtɔ**.

Ingressive Form.—The forms to be used are **-bε**, **-bɔ** and **-kε**, **-kɔ**. Thus we shall write **mebeyε** (I come to do) and **mekɔtɔ** (I go to do).

Future Negative.—The mode of writing the future negative **nkε** and **nkɔ** is exemplified by **menkeyε** and **menkɔtɔ**.

The alternative and commoner future negative form, which is also the negative of the present progressive formed with **-nye**, will be written as in the examples **menyenkɔ** and **menyemba**.

Perfect Tense.—In accordance with the changes indicated above in the paragraph dealing with the symbol **a** the perfect tense will always have the prefix **a-**.

The nominative pronouns **me**, **e**, **yε**, **wɔ** are elided before a verb in the perfect tense. Thus we have **m'afa**, **afa**, **ɔafa**, **y'afa**, **homafa**, **w'afa**, and **m'abu**, **'abu**, **ɔabu**, **homabu**, **w'abu**. In the Illustration **aasoma** is another example of this.

Past Tense.—This tense is no longer indicated by an accent. When the verb ends with a vowel this is duplicated to indicate the past tense, e.g. **yεhyehyεε**.

When it ends with a consonant **e** or **i** is added according to the nature of the influencing vowel of the stem of the word, e.g. **ɔtumi** is the past tense of **ɔtum**.

When the verb is followed by an object or a modifier or **dε** the suffix **-e** or **-i** is not sounded.

Most verbs ending with a vowel, especially those in **ɔ**, **o**, **u**, or **e**, instead of duplicating the vowel take the suffix **-e** or **-i**, if not followed by an object or a modifier or **dε**.

Nasal Sign

50. The nasal sign over vowels will continue to be used as before, whether the preceding or the following consonant is nasal or not.

Final w

51. Final **w** will be retained, e.g. **dodow**, **kurow**, **dadaw**.

Omission of Short Vowels

52. It is left to the discretion of individual writers to omit or insert the vowel in certain words, e.g. **sere** or **sre**, **kurow** or **krow**, **pera** or **pra**. In practice it would be far better for one or other form to be adopted in each case and always used. This is a matter which can only be settled when a recognized dictionary is taken as the accepted standard of spelling, but teachers and others might well give their attention to the collection of a complete list of such words, and settle on the spelling most desirable. Then everyone should adhere to it.

Words in e

53. In order to help towards the unification of spelling of Twi and Fante all words in which the initial vowel sound is **e** will be written with initial **a**. Their second syllable generally contains the **i** or **u** sound. Examples are :—**agya**, **anyi**, **anum**, **asia**, **ason**, **atwa**, **adu**, etc. Their spelling in this form should be adhered to.

The Symbols Illustrated

54. You should now refer to Illustration H where you will find set out :—

(1) The printed symbols in common use in Fante. (The corresponding cursive and script handwriting symbols are to be found in Illustration A.)

(2) A number of sentences illustrating the use of these printed symbols.

If you then turn to Illustration J you will find these same sentences as they would appear in cursive handwriting, while in Illustration K are the same sentences in script handwriting.

A careful examination of these in conjunction with the notes given in this and the preceding section will enable you to see clearly how the new script affects the Fante language.

ILLUSTRATION H

The New Script in Fante

Capital.	Small.	Capital.	Small.	Capital.	Small.
A	a ā	HW	hw	P	p
B	b	HY	hy	R	r
D	d	I	i ī	S	s
DW	dw	K	k	T	t
DZ	dz	KW	kw	TS	ts
E	e ē	KY	ky	TW	tw
Ɛ	ε	M	m	U	u ũ
F	f	N	n	W	w
G	g	NY	ny	Y	y
GY	gy	O	o ō	Z	z
H	h	Ɔ	ɔ		

An Example of its Use in Print

Amba ye abofra. Wɔma no nkra a ɔnhũ kã, ne werɛ fir bi na okyea bi. Yɛhyehyɛɛ mbrɛ yɛbɛyɛ y'aboa no. Ɔyɛ na ne nã rehwe akokoaba no a na ɔasoma Amba dɛ ɔnkɔtɔ adze wɔ ne nua-panyin Afua hɔ. "Kɔtɔ dɔkon takufã, kyenam sempoa ɔnye akutu kaper ma me."

Amba dze ye agor ntsi, n'anyigye kɔ mu ma ne were mfir. "Melebɔtɔ lɔkon takufã, kyenam sempoa, ɔnye akutu kapɛl." Dɛm yi na Afua so abua no dɛ: "Ɛme mennyi akutu. Gye dɔkon takufa yi ɔnye kyenam sempoa yi."

Ɔsan n'akyir a ɔhũ kã dɛ: "Afua nnyi akutu, na lɔkon takufa na kyenam sempoa no nye yi."

Dankyer biara na ɔtumi dɛ ɔkaa ndzɛmba pii na ɔbo amandzɛɛ tsentsen mpo.

ILLUSTRATION J

The Same Extract in Cursive Writing

Amba ye abofra. Ušma no
 nkra a znhũ kã, ne were fir
 bi na zkyea bi. Yehyehye mbre
 yebe ye yãboa no. Iye na ne nã
 rehuwe akskoaba no a na zasoma
 Amba de znksts adze wz ne nua-
 panyin Afua hz. 'Ksts dzkon
 takufã, kyenam sempoa znye
 akutu kapor ma me.'

Amba dze ye agor ntsi
 nanyigye ks mu ma ne were
 mfir. 'Melebsts lskon takufã, kye-
 nam sempoa, znye akutu kapel.'
 Dem yi na Afua so abua no de:
 'Eme mennyi akutu. Gye dzkon
 takufã yi znye kyenam sem-
 poa yi.'

Isan niakyer a zhu kã de:
 'Afua nnyi akutu, na lskon
 takufa nã kyenam sempoa no
 nye yi.'

Tankyer biara na ztumi
 de zkaa ndzemba pii na
 zbz amandzee tsentsen mpo.

ILLUSTRATION K

The Same Extract in Script Writing

Amba ye abofra. Woma no nkra
 a onhū kā, ne were fir bi na okyea
 bi. Yehyehyee mbre yebeye y'aboa no.
 Oye na ne nā rehwe akokoaba no a
 na sasoma Amba de onkoto adze wo
 ne nua-panyin Afua ho. 'Koto dōkon
 takufā, kyenam sempoa onye akutu
 kaper ma me.'

Amba dze ye agor ntsi, n'anyigye
 ko mu ma ne were mfir. 'Melebotō lokon
 takufā, kyenam sempoa, onye akutu kapel.'
 Dem yi na Afua so abua no de: 'Eme
 mennyi akutu. Gye dōkon takufā yi onye
 kyenam sempoa yi.'

Osan n'akyir a ohū kā de: 'Afua
 nnyi akutu, na lokon^{takufā} na kyenam sem-
 poa no nye yi.'

Dankyer biara na otumi de
 okaa ndzemba pii na obo amandzee
 tsentsen mpo.

SECTION VI: THE SCRIPT IN RELATION TO TWI

55. This section should be read in conjunction with Section IV in which the unification of the spelling of Twi and Fanté was discussed. We shall chronicle here not only the changes which are brought about by the introduction of new letters into the script, but also the changes desirable to assist in the unification of the dialects of the Akan language.

Changes in Letters

56. *The symbol ε.* This is used instead of *e*. Thus *kese* becomes *kεse* and *kyere* becomes *kyerε*.

The symbol ɔ.—This is used instead of *o*. Thus *dokɔdokɔ* will be written *dəkɔdəkɔ* and *pompɔ* becomes *pɔmpɔ*.

The symbol ŋ.—This should not be used in Twi. Words formerly spelt with *n* will remain with *n*, and those formerly spelt with *ɲ* will be spelt with *n* also. Thus *ɲkwa* becomes *nkwa* and *akonɲua* becomes *akongua*.

The symbol hw.—All words formerly spelt with *fw* will now be spelt with *hw*. Thus *fwe* becomes *hwe* and *nfwiren* will be written *nhwiren*.

Diacritical Marks

57. *The sign (^).*—This sign, formerly written over the letter *w*, will not be used. These words formerly written with it will now appear as *ahwehwe*, *nwiei*, *dwodwo*, *twitwa*.

It will also be omitted in every case where it was formerly used over vowels, and it will be left to the discretion of the writer as to whether the vowel be inserted or not. Thus *kurow* or *krow* will be written, though it is to be hoped that it will be only a matter of time for one or other to become the customary and accepted spelling.

There is not the slightest need to retain the mark in such a word as *bara* (to make law) for if the vowel is retained it cannot be confused with *bra* (to come).

The length sign (ˉ).—This sign will now be dropped and the vowel to be lengthened will be duplicated. Thus *dā* and *korā* will be written *daa* and *koraa*.

The nasal sign (̃).—This sign may be retained as in the old script, whether the preceding or the following consonant be nasal or not. There is no need, however, for its retention in cases where there is no possibility of confusion of words.

Elisions

58. The method of elision will depend on the nature of the initial vowel of the second word. Where this vowel is fugitive, as in *onua*, *enā*, it will be dropped and the previous word will be written in full, e.g. *me nua*, *wo nā*. But where the vowel is stubborn, as in *ani* and in verb prefixes, it will be retained and the pronoun or other preceding vowel will be elided, e.g. *w'ani*, *w'aba*, *m'ano*.

Personal Pronouns

59. The personal pronouns should always be written as below:—

	Singular			Plural		
	1st Per.	2nd Per.	3rd Per.	1st Per.	2nd Per.	3rd Per.
Nom.	me	wo	o	yε	mo	wɔ
			or ε neuter			
Obj.	me	wo	no	yεn	mo	wɔn
Poss.	me	wo	ne	yεn	mo	wɔn

Verbs

60. *Future Tense*.—The prefix to form the future tense of verbs is always *bε*. The corresponding tenses in Fante will be formed in a similar manner and so a great step towards the unification of spelling will have been taken.

Progressive Tenses.—The progressive tense and the progressive future tense should be formed by prefixing the syllable *re*.

Ko as a prefix.—*Ko* as a prefix will always be written *kɔ* and never *ko*.

Assimilation of m and n

61. In words where **m** or **n** precedes another consonant and is assimilated in Twi but not in Fante it should be written in the unassimilated form. Its pronunciation will not change, but the Twi word will be recognized more easily by speakers of another dialect. Thus we should write **mba** (children), **nguan** (sheep), **ngo** (palm oil), **mengye ndi** (I do not believe), **amba** (he does not come).

Phrasing

62. Phrases such as **fa brɛ me**, **nwura mu**, etc., should always be written out in full, even though they are in speaking habitually slurred to forms such as **fabrɛm**, **nwuram**, etc.

The Symbols Illustrated

63. The reader should now refer to Illustration L where he will find set out :—

(1) The printed symbols in common use in Twi. (The corresponding cursive and script handwriting symbols are to be found in Illustration A.)

(2) A number of sentences illustrating the use of these symbols.

In Illustration M he will find the same extract as it would appear in ordinary cursive handwriting, while in Illustration N is the same extract in script handwriting.

A careful examination of these in conjunction with the notes given in this section and in Section IV will enable him to see at once how the new script affects the Twi language.

ILLUSTRATION L

The New Script in Twi

Capital.	Small.	Capital.	Small.	Capital.	Small.
A	a ā	HW	hw	P	p
B	b	HY	hy	R	r
D	d	I	i ī	S	s
DW	dw	K	k	T	t
E	e ē	KY	ky	TW	tw
Ɛ	ε ē	M	m	U	u ũ
F	f	N	n	W	w
G	g	O	o ō	Y	y
H	h	Ɔ	ɔ ȯ		

An Example of its Use in Print

Ohene no de, ɛyɛɛ saa no, ankā ɔsusu sɛ ɛyɛ adaesō, na akyiri yi na ɔhūi sɛ ɛyɛ asempa ampa. Ɛnna ɔrebisa ne hō sɛ: "Asem ben ni? Ɛden na ɛyɛ nnipa yi? Me ɔnanani ɔkwaterekwa yi na wode me si hene? Wɔn oo, wɔambisa me nea mefi, na wɔambisa me ase, na wɔabɛpagya me abesi wɔn ahengua so. Na kurow ben mu asem na wodi no saa?"

Afei ɔnam mborɔn so ara kɔduu mpoano wɔ hyengyinabea hɔ no, ɔhūu ahyɛn akɛsɛ a ɔnhūu so bi da wɔ hɔ, na ɛmu hyɛn kɛsɛ biakō titiri a ɛbɛgyina hɔ ɛnkyɛɛ na nhyɛmba di mu akɔ-ne-aba, yi yi ndaka nɛ ntamabeere de ba mpoano. Nso wɔpirepirew asikre nɛ ɛmō apankran nɛ taa nɛ nsā ahaase a ahyɛ hyɛn no mā bi ba a ɛyɛɛ no nwonwā. Ɔhwe mā ɛkyɛɛ no, ɔbisaa ɔbi a ɔamā ndaka a ɛgugu mpoano no mu biakō so asi nɛ matiso sɛ: "Awɛ, ɔbarima a nɛ kra ye a wode aguade yi nnyinaa fi po so abere no ne hena?" Ɔbuaa no sɛ: "Menuu." Ɛnna ɔhianhyɛda sɛ: "Afei na m'ahū ampa, onipa a ɛpo de ahōnyāde a ɛte sɛɛ bere no, sɛ ɛdi ara ne sɛ ɔasi ɔdan kɛsɛ a ɛyɛ nwonwā yi." Na ɔfi hɔ reko ne fi na ɔredwen hō no, ɔkāɛ sɛ: "O me de, medi hīa dodow wɔ wiase asikafo mu!" Na ɔkāɛ ne tiri mu sɛ: "Sɛ menya no senea owura Menuu wɔ no yi. ɛ—!"

ILLUSTRATION M

The Same Extract in Cursive Writing

Ihene no de, eyeē saa no,
 ankā 2susu se eye adaesō;
 na akɣiri yi na zhūi se
 eye asempa ampa. Enna 2re
 bisa ne hō se: "Asem ben ni?
 Eden na eye nnipa yi? Me
 2nanani 2kwaterekuwa yi na
 wzde me si hene? Wzn oo,
 wzambisa me nea mefi, na
 wzambisa me ase, na wzabe-
 pagya me abesi wzn ahengua
 so. Na kurou ben mu asem
 na. wzdi no saa?"

Afei 2nam mborsn so ara
 ksduu mpoano wz hyengyina-
 bea hz no, zhūu ahɣen akese
 a 2nhūu so bi da wz hz, na
 emu hyen kese biakō titiri a
 ebegyina hz enkɣee na nhɣemba

di mu aks-ne-aba, yi yi ndaka
 nè ntamabeere de ba mpoano.
 Nso wɔpɔrɛpɔrɛw asikre nè emō
 apankran nè taa nè nsā ahaase
 a ahye hyen no mā bi ba a
 eye no nwonwā. Ihwe mā ekrye
 no, ɔbisaa ɔbi a zamā ndaka
 a egugu mpoano no mu biakō
 so asi nè matiso se: "Awe, ɔbari
 ma a ne kra ye a wɔde aguade
 yi nnyinaa fi po so abere no
 ne hena?" Ibuaa no se: "Menuu!"
 Enna ɔhianhyeda se: "Afei na
 m'ahū ampa, onipa a epo de
 ahōnyāde a ete se bere no, se
 edi ara ne se zasi zdan kese
 a eye nwonwā yi." Na ɔfi ha reks
 ne fi na ɔredwen hō no, ɔkāe
 se: "O me de, medi hā dodow wɔ
 wiase asikafo mu!" Na ɔkāe ne
 tiri mu se: "Se mēnya no
 senea owura Menuu wɔ no yi ε—!"

ILLUSTRATION N

The Same Extract in Script Writing

Ihene no de, eye saa no,
 ankã osusu se eye adaesõ; na
 akyiri yi na chui se eye asempa
 ampa. Enna rebisa ne hõ se:
 "Asem ben ni? Eden na eye nnipa
 yi? Me onanani okwaterekwa yi na
 wode me si hene? Won oo,
 wambisa me nea mefi, na wambisa
 me ase, na wabepagya me abesi
 won ahengua so. Na kurow ben mu
 asem na wodi no saa?"

Afei onam mboron so ara
 koduu mpoano wo hyengyinabea
 ho no, chũu ahyen akese a onhũu
 so bi da wo ho, na emu hyen
 kese biakõ titiri a ebegyina ho
 enkyee na nhyemba di mu ako-
 ne-aba, yiyi ndaka nè ntamabeere
 de ba mpoano. Nso wospirepirew
 asikre nè emõ apankran nè taa

ne nsa ahaase a ahye hyen no mǎ
 bi ba a eyee no nwonwǎ. Ohwe
 mǎ ekyee no, obisaa obi a samǎ
 ndaka a egugu mpoano no mu
 biakō so asi nè matiso se: "Awe,
 obarima a ne kra ye a wode
 aguade yi nnyinaa fi po so abere
 no ne hena?" Obuaa no se: "Menuu!"
 Enna ohianhyeda se: "Afei na mahũ
 ampa, onipa a epo de ahõnyãde
 a ete seẽ bere no, se edi ara
 ne se asi odan kese a eye
 nwonwǎ yi." Na ofi ho reko ne fi
 na credwen hõ no, okãe se: "O
 me de, medi hĩa dodow wo wiase
 asikafo mu!" Na okãe ne tiri mu
 se: "Se menya no senea owura
 Menuu wo nõ yi ẽ ———!"

